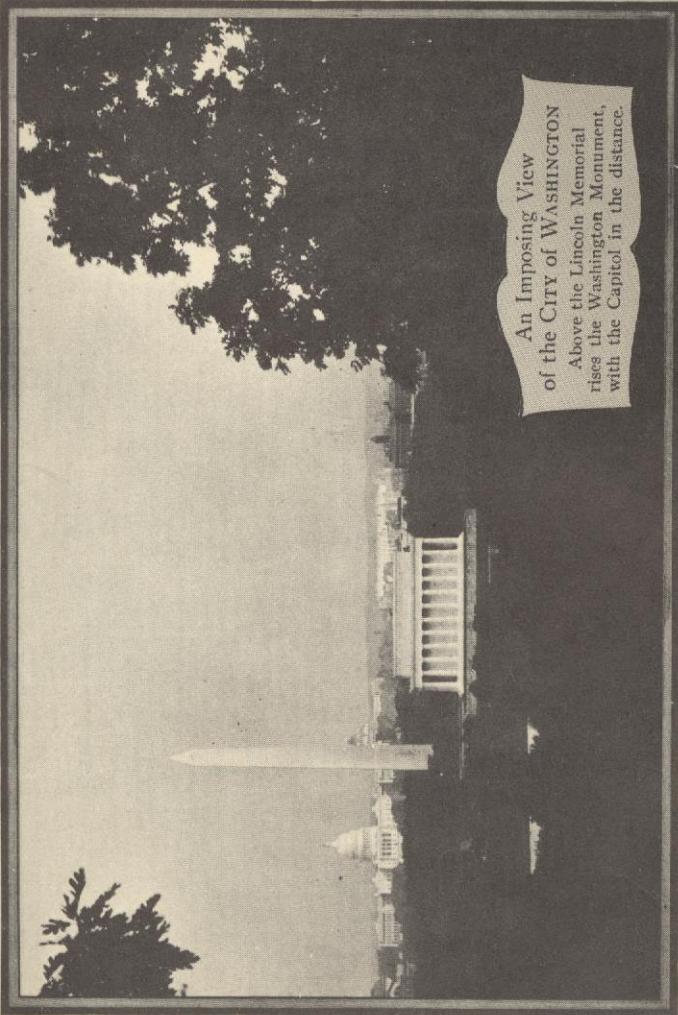


The White House-

The PRESIDENTS of  
the  
UNITED STATES



An Imposing View  
of the CITY of WASHINGTON  
Above the Lincoln Memorial  
rises the Washington Monument,  
with the Capitol in the distance.

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The PRESIDENTS of  
*the*  
UNITED STATES

The portraits of the Presidents repro-  
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Hoover whose portrait has  
not yet been officially  
placed there.

Published by

*John Hancock*  
MUTUAL  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*Barbara Smith*

## *Qualifications of President*

"No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

—*Constitution of the United States*

## *President's Oath of Office*

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

—*Constitution of the United States*

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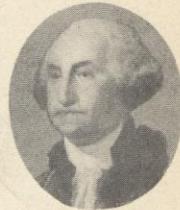
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# THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES

## GEORGE WASHINGTON

First President

April 30, 1789-March 4, 1797



George Washington was unanimously chosen the first President of the United States under the new Constitution. He took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall, New York, April 30, 1789. After two terms as President, Washington firmly declined re-election, thus establishing the precedent that no President should serve longer than two terms.

On February 22, 1932, the nation will celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. He was born at Pope's Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on the estate later to be known as Wakefield. At an early age he became a surveyor, but soon his military career began and he served with distinction in the French and Indian war. His marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis occurred in 1759. Mount Vernon, the beautiful estate on the Potomac, which Washington had inherited from his brother, now became their home. As a prosperous Virginia planter, Washington displayed a keen interest and pleasure in managing his estate; at the same time he took an active part in the political affairs of the Colony.

For fifteen years he was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and in 1774 and 1775, as one of Virginia's delegates, he went to the Continental Congress. Here, in June, 1775, he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. On July 3, under the historic elm on Cambridge Common, Washington took command of the army. It was Washington's leadership and courage which brought the country safely through the long, weary years of the Revolutionary War.

He was President of the Constitutional Convention of 1787; aided by his vision and commanding influence, our instrument

of government, the Constitution of the United States, was created. As the first President, Washington was confronted with the organization problem of the new nation, and as always, he was equal to his great task. After eight years, when he left the Presidency, the United States had passed safely through the formative period and was welded together into a nation.

"Be united," "Be Americans" were the fundamental admonitions in Washington's Farewell Address, the document he bequeathed to America as he stepped down from the Presidency and returned to his beloved Mount Vernon for the few years left to him. He died on December 14, 1799, and was buried in the tomb at Mount Vernon.

In the national capital which bears the name of our first President, there stands a beautiful and imposing monument which typifies the love and veneration for George Washington felt not only by the nation but by the world; for built into this great structure are memorial stones from all parts of the United States and all parts of the world. As this noble monument towers majestically above the city of Washington, so the character and memory of the first President stand on an eminence in the hearts of all Americans.



### JOHN ADAMS Second President

March 4, 1797-March 4, 1801

John Adams, the second President, was also the first Vice-President, under the Washington administration. He was born on October 30, 1735, in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts. The Adams family is an illustrious one in American history. Samuel Adams, a leader in the cause of American liberty, was a second cousin of John Adams; John Quincy Adams, the eldest son of John Adams, was the sixth President, while his son, Charles Francis Adams, was nationally prominent as the Civil War minister to England.

As a delegate from Massachusetts, John Adams took a prominent part in the Continental Congress. He was the first to propose that

Washington be appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. He seconded the famous Lee Resolution and ably defended it. He was a member of the committee appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence. This document was written by Thomas Jefferson, named to do so by the committee, but in the debate which led to its adoption, John Adams took the foremost part.

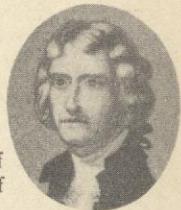
With John Jay and Benjamin Franklin, he helped negotiate the treaty of peace with Great Britain. He was our first minister to the Court of St. James's. Towards the end of his presidential term, the capital was moved from Philadelphia to the new city of Washington, so that John Adams was the first President to live in the White House. Abigail Adams, the first mistress of the White House, possessed great intellect and true New England spirit. As zealous a patriot as her husband, she was an extremely able and congenial comrade through all the trials and triumphs of his long career.

Of all the Presidents, John Adams lived to be the oldest. He died in his ninety-first year, on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The story is that his last words were, "Thomas Jefferson still survives." But Jefferson too had passed away a few hours earlier.

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### THOMAS JEFFERSON Third President

March 4, 1801-March 4, 1809



At the age of 33, Thomas Jefferson, as a member of the Continental Congress, drafted the Declaration of Independence. He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, on April 13, 1743. The second Governor of Virginia, Minister to France, first Secretary of State under Washington, Vice-President under John Adams,—these were the stages of Thomas Jefferson's public service until he became the third President.

Jefferson early displayed his opposition to the policies of the Federalist party, led by Alexander Hamilton, and founded what was

then called the Republican party, but is now the Democratic party. In the presidential election of 1800, Aaron Burr was tied with Thomas Jefferson. Upon vote of the House of Representatives, Jefferson was elected. He was re-elected four years later, and refused a third term, thus strengthening Washington's precedent.

Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be inaugurated at Washington. He disliked all ceremony and ostentation and did away with it in the presidential office. Mrs. Jefferson (Martha Wayles Skelton) died nineteen years before her husband became President. Jefferson's eight years as President were marked by many important events, foremost among them, the Louisiana Purchase which added 875,000 square miles to the area of the United States.

Jefferson was a man of superb physical health and strength. He took great delight in music and was an accomplished violinist. Architecture, too, absorbed his interest. Monticello, his beautiful home in Virginia, was built from his plans, as were several buildings of the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, of which Jefferson was the founder.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, its author died at Monticello. It had been Jefferson's earnest wish that he should live until that day.

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### JAMES MADISON

**Fourth President**

**March 4, 1809-March 4, 1817**



Thomas Jefferson retired from the Presidency at the end of his term, leaving his friend and disciple and Secretary of State in the President's chair. James Madison was born in Port Conway, Virginia, on March 16, 1751. So great was his part in the framing of the Constitution and in

bringing about its final acceptance that he is known today as the "Father of the Constitution."

He prepared the "Virginia Plan" upon which was based our form of Congress, with the States equally represented in the Senate, and on a population basis in the House. With Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, he joined in writing a series of articles, called THE FEDERALIST, explaining and supporting the Constitution. As a member of the first Congress, he was an able interpreter of the new form of government. To Madison we are indebted for the only full report of the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention. Absolute secrecy was the rule of the Convention, but Madison kept very full notes, which came to light after his death and were published.

Madison drifted away from the Federalist party to become a follower of Jefferson. When he became President, we were in the midst of controversies with England over her blockade of France and her impressment of American sailors. The War of 1812 was the result. It was in Madison's second term that the city of Washington was taken by the British and burned.

Mrs. Madison, always affectionately known as Dolly Madison, was one of the most beloved mistresses of the White House. At Montpelier, his beautiful Colonial home in Virginia, where he had lived in peaceful retirement for nearly twenty years, Madison died on June 28, 1836.

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### JAMES MONROE

**Fifth President**

**March 4, 1817-March 4, 1825**



Virginia was the birthplace of four of the first five American Presidents. James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on April 28, 1758. His career of public service covered almost fifty years. He served with distinction in the Revolutionary War; he was prominent in the

Virginia Legislature and the Continental Congress and was twice Governor of Virginia; he was one of Virginia's first Senators; he represented the United States in France, Spain, and England; he was sent by President Jefferson to France to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase; he was Secretary of State under Madison, and for a time, Secretary of War.

The eight years of President Monroe's administration are known as the "Era of Good Feeling." The Federalist party was virtually out of existence and there was no political strife. Upon re-election, Monroe received all but one of the electoral votes cast. This one dissenting vote was cast by an elector from New Hampshire, who declared that only Washington should have the honor of a unanimous election.

The Monroe administration saw the purchase of Florida from Spain for five million dollars. The agitation over the admission of Missouri as a slave state resulted in the Missouri Compromise of 1820. President Monroe's name has become inseparably associated with a famous political doctrine which denies to European nations the right to interfere with the existing governments in North and South America. The Monroe Doctrine was first set forth in the President's annual message of 1823.

James Monroe retired to Oak Hill, his home in Virginia, but financial difficulties forced him to give up this estate, and he died in New York at the home of his daughter on July 4, 1831, the third President to die on the nation's birthday.



## JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Sixth President

March 4, 1825-March 4, 1829

There is only one instance of a President's son having succeeded to the Presidency. John Quincy Adams, the eldest son of John Adams, was born July 11, 1767, in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts. He was one of our most scholarly Presidents, and a fearless statesman, although not always popular.

Throughout his long and strenuous life, he kept a most remarkable and interesting diary, which gives a valuable record of the political phases of the first half of the nineteenth century.

He had a varied and extensive diplomatic career, representing the United States in the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, and England. As Secretary of State under President Monroe, he took part in two important achievements, the acquisition of Florida and the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine.

The presidential election of 1824 had to be decided by the House of Representatives, as none of the candidates received a majority of votes. The decision lay between Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and William H. Crawford. Henry Clay, as Speaker of the House, threw his influence towards Adams, thereby gaining the title of President-maker.

The public service of John Quincy Adams did not end with his retirement from the Presidency. Indeed, the last chapter of his life is one of the most noteworthy. For seventeen years, or until the time of his death, he was a member of the House of Representatives, where he waged a long and dramatic fight against the slaveholders for the right of petition in the House. A few months before his death, the "old man eloquent"—as he was called—triumphed, and the so-called Gag Rule, which shut off petitions against slavery, was repealed.

Death overtook him at his post of duty. He was in his seat in the House when he was stricken, and two days later, February 23, 1848, he died. Within the First Parish Church in Quincy are the tombs of the two Presidents who were father and son.

## ANDREW JACKSON

Seventh President

March 4, 1829-March 4, 1837

Military hero and idol of the people, Andrew Jackson was the first frontier President. He was born on March 15, 1767, in the Waxhaw settlement on the North Caro-



lina and South Carolina border. He was the last of the Presidents who had taken part in the Revolutionary War, this when a boy of fourteen.

He rose to political fame in Tennessee at an early age; he was a member of Congress at 29, United States Senator at 30, and at 31, he was judge of the Superior Court of Tennessee. The War of 1812 brought Jackson into prominence; his victory at New Orleans made him a national hero. Following his campaign against the Indians in Florida, he became the first territorial Governor of Florida.

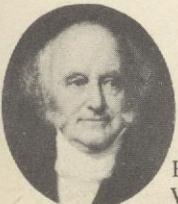
Although Jackson received the largest number of electoral votes in 1824, he did not receive a majority, and it was a bitter disappointment to him when John Quincy Adams secured the election by vote of the House of Representatives. The next presidential election brought Jackson a large majority of votes, and in 1832 he was re-elected, defeating Henry Clay. His administration was chiefly one of conflict although in many ways it was constructive. The introduction of the Spoils system, the Nullification controversy, and the opposition to the Bank of the United States were the chief features.

Vigorous, brusque, and independent, "Old Hickory" was always loved by the people. Mrs. Jackson (Rachel Donelson Robards) died before her husband became President. Near Nashville, Tennessee, stands the beautiful Jackson home, The Hermitage, where General Jackson died on June 8, 1845. He was buried there in the garden.

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**MARTIN VAN BUREN**  
Eighth President  
**March 4, 1837-March 4, 1841**

Like Jefferson, Jackson named his successor to the Presidency, for it was his influence which elected Martin Van Buren, who had been Vice-President under the last



term of the Jackson administration. He was a New York statesman, born at Kinderhook, New York, on December 5, 1782. He had been United States Senator, Governor, and Secretary of State before becoming Vice-President.

The panic of 1837, the most disastrous panic the country had known, came a few weeks after Van Buren was sworn into office. It was a result of overspeculation, but unfairly enough, the administration was held to blame. Time has proved that Van Buren's financial policy was sound, and his establishment of the Treasury of the United States independent of any bank was a wise move. Today Martin Van Buren ranks high in American statesmanship.

Mrs. Van Buren (Hannah Hoes) died almost at the beginning of her husband's distinguished career. Van Buren was defeated for re-election in 1840. He lived at Lindenwald, Kinderhook, until his death on July 24, 1862, amid the dark days of the Civil War.

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**WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON**  
Ninth President  
**March 4, 1841-April 4, 1841**



"Tippecanoe and Tyler too" was the Whig rallying cry of the presidential campaign of 1840. William Henry Harrison had won the name of "Tippecanoe" because of his victory over the Indian chieftain, Tecumseh, at Tippecanoe. He was a frontier President, yet by birth and education he belonged to the aristocracy of Virginia. Born February 9, 1773, at Berkeley, Virginia, he was the son of Benjamin Harrison, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was grandfather of another Benjamin, who became the twenty-third President.

A pioneer in the Ohio Valley, Harrison acted as Secretary of the Northwest Territory, and later its delegate to Congress. He was

nominated for the Presidency in 1836, but was defeated by Van Buren. General Harrison came to the White House in 1841 as the oldest man ever elected President. He was the first President to die in office—just one month after his inauguration. He contracted a severe cold on Inauguration Day, which was followed by pneumonia.



### JOHN TYLER Tenth President

April 4, 1841-March 4, 1845

John Tyler, a Virginian, was the first Vice-President to complete the unexpired term of a President. He was born on March 29, 1790, at Greenway, Virginia. He served in both houses of the Virginia Legislature, in both houses of Congress, and as Governor of his State.

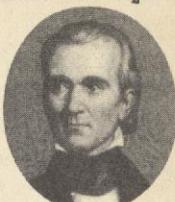
He was elected to the Vice-Presidency as a Democrat opposed to Jackson, and not as a Whig. Succeeding to the Presidency, he had a stormy administration. He vetoed the act reincorporating the United States Bank. The Whigs read the President out of their party, and all but one member of his cabinet resigned. The one member left was Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, who remained until he had negotiated the treaty—known as the Webster-Ashburton treaty—which settled the northeastern boundary lines of the United States. At the end of his administration, President Tyler retired to his home in Virginia, called Sherwood Forest.

The first Mrs. Tyler (Letitia Christian) died at the White House. In 1844 President Tyler married Julia Gardiner. In 1861 John Tyler returned to Washington as president of the Peace Convention which tried to avert the Civil War. Its proposals having failed, Tyler joined the cause of Virginia and was elected to the Confederate Congress, but died on January 18, 1862, before it assembled.

### JAMES KNOX POLK

Eleventh President

March 4, 1845-March 4, 1849



In the presidential campaign of 1844, the two opposing candidates were James Knox Polk for the Democrats, and Henry Clay for the Whigs. James K. Polk was the first "dark horse" presidential candidate; that is, nominated to break a deadlock without previous general discussion of his name. Of Scotch-Irish stock, he was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, November 2, 1795, but the greater part of his life was spent in Tennessee. Here he was a legislator and Governor and represented Tennessee in Congress, where he presided as Speaker of the House.

The annexation of Texas, accomplished during the last weeks of the Tyler administration, brought about the dispute over the Texas border resulting in the Mexican War, declared the year after President Polk took office. By the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, the United States, in return for a payment of \$15,000,000, received its fourth accession of national territory, including California, Utah, Nevada, and parts of Arizona and New Mexico. Also during the Polk administration, the Oregon boundary was settled by treaty with Great Britain, and the Territory of Oregon was organized. Gold was discovered in California, and the march to the Pacific coast began in 1849.

President Polk did not desire re-election. He and his wife, Sarah Childress Polk, went to live in Nashville, Tennessee, but the Ex-President died on June 15, 1849, a little more than three months after leaving the White House.

### ZACHARY TAYLOR

Twelfth President

March 4, 1849-July 9, 1850



Like William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor was a soldier and a Whig, and like him, he did not live to complete his term of office. Born in Orange County,

Virginia, on September 24, 1784, he lived there less than a year, for his family migrated to Kentucky where he grew up as a frontiersman. He had held no political office of any kind before he became President. He had been a soldier for more than thirty years, and it was as the hero of the Mexican War that he was elected President.

He served in the War of 1812, and against the Indians in the Northwest and in Florida. In his Northwest campaign, Black Hawk surrendered to him. In 1846 President Polk ordered General Taylor to occupy the territory under dispute by the Mexicans and Texans. He was attacked by the Mexicans and war followed. "Old Rough and Ready," as Taylor was called by his men, won several victories and became the hero of the hour. He came to the Presidency from Louisiana.

President Taylor did not live to see Clay's Compromise of 1850 finally effected. This famous debate, another great struggle for slavery, was in process when President Taylor, after an illness of five days, died on July 9, 1850, only sixteen months after he came to the White House.

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**MILLARD FILLMORE**  
Thirteenth President  
**July 10, 1850-March 4, 1853**

Upon President Taylor's death, Millard Fillmore, the Vice-President, succeeded to the Presidency. He had been a poor country boy, born January 7, 1800, on a farm in Cayuga County, New York. From a position as apprentice to a wool carder, he rose to the highest place in the nation. He was a self-made man, who advanced largely through his own efforts. A lawyer, a member of the New York Assembly and then of Congress, he was defeated for Governor but became Comptroller of New York, and won the Vice-Presidency in 1848.

As Vice-President, he presided over the Senate during the stormy debates of the slavery compromise measures of 1850, which, as President, he was to see enacted. His signature to the Fugitive Slave Law, a part of the compromise, lost him the favor of the Northern Whigs and cost him the nomination in 1852. It was impossible during the slavery controversy for a President to please both the North and the South.

While Fillmore was President, three great men in the affairs of the nation died—Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster—each of whom had been talked of for the Presidency, but had failed of nomination or election.

The last part of Millard Fillmore's life was spent in Buffalo, New York, where he practiced law for eighteen years. Here he died on March 8, 1874.

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**FRANKLIN PIERCE**  
Fourteenth President  
**March 4, 1853-March 4, 1857**

Franklin Pierce was another of our Presidents who served in the Mexican War. He was born at Hillsboro, New Hampshire, on November 23, 1804. Like most of our Chief Executives, he was a lawyer, and served in his State Legislature as well as in both Houses of Congress; he was the youngest United States Senator of his day. Upon declaration of war with Mexico, he entered the service as a private, and came out a Brigadier General.

Franklin Pierce was the "dark horse" candidate of the Democratic convention of 1852, and in the ensuing election he defeated General Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate. President Pierce was a gentle-



man of distinguished manners and high character, but he was not a national leader. He has the distinction, however, of being the only President who completed his term without a change in his cabinet. Jefferson Davis was his Secretary of War.

The slavery question was dominant throughout this administration. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill, allowing those territories to decide for themselves about slavery, thereby repealing the Missouri Compromise, was passed. This bill was responsible for the birth of the Republican party.

President Pierce failed to be renominated. He traveled in Europe for several years, then settled in Concord, New Hampshire, where he died on October 8, 1869.

### JAMES BUCHANAN

Fifteenth President

March 4, 1857-March 4, 1861



James Buchanan's four years as President came at the most critical period preceding the Civil War. Because he tried to steer a middle course, he was subjected to general disapproval. He was born near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, on April 23, 1791. He was in public life almost continuously from the time he was 23 years old until his retirement from the Presidency at the age of 70.

He served in both Houses of Congress, as Minister to Russia and England, and as Secretary of State under President Polk. As the Democratic candidate for President in 1856, he defeated John C. Frémont, the first Republican candidate. At the time of his inauguration, he was nearly 66, the oldest President except William Henry Harrison. He is the only one of our Presidents who never married. His niece, Harriet Lane, acted as mistress of the White House.

The year 1860 was one of tenseness. With the election of Lincoln came the secession which the South had been threatening, and the Confederacy was formed. With a sense of relief, President Buchanan turned over to his successor the great problems of a national crisis. He retired to his home near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he died seven years later, on June 1, 1868.

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### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Sixteenth President

March 4, 1861-April 15, 1865



To meet the nation's crisis came a man whom God had endowed with courage, wisdom, and a nobility of purpose equal to the great task ahead. The story of how Abraham Lincoln rose from poverty and obscurity to one of the greatest places in history is an American saga that will live through the ages.

Born February 12, 1809, in a log cabin in what is now Larue County, Kentucky, Lincoln's boyhood was one of privation and striving. Self-educated, he became a lawyer and active in State politics. He served six years in the Illinois Legislature and two years in Congress. His real fame began in 1858 when he and Stephen A. Douglas were opposing candidates for the United States Senate. Then occurred the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates which brought Lincoln into such national prominence that he was nominated for the Presidency in the Republican Convention of 1860.

Lincoln's great task when he came to Washington as head of the nation was to preserve the Union. Already seven States had seceded and formed the Confederate Government. A month after Lincoln's inauguration Fort Sumter was fired upon and the Civil War began. Throughout the four dark years of the war, President Lincoln was

subjected to the most disheartening criticism and censure. Through disaster and victory he consistently and ever courageously worked to save the Union. When in his judgment the time was right, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, thereby making the freeing of the slaves an added purpose of the war.

In the autumn of 1863, a national cemetery was dedicated at Gettysburg. Here President Lincoln made the brief speech which has become immortal. The Gettysburg Address, Lincoln's letter to Mrs. Bixby, and his Second Inaugural Address convey, as no other words can, the spirit of the Great Emancipator, his humanity, his humility, his gentleness, and kindness.

Re-elected in 1864, President Lincoln was busy with plans of reconstruction, for it was evident the war was nearing an end. On April 14, 1865, five days after Lee's surrender, the President while attending the theater was shot by John Wilkes Booth and died the next morning.

The beautiful Lincoln Memorial in Washington stands in a great open space on a terraced mound. Within the interior, carved in marble, is the great figure of Lincoln seated. His majesty and nobility live again in every line of the statue. Above are engraved these words: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."



**ANDREW JOHNSON**  
**Seventeenth President**  
**April 15, 1865-March 4, 1869**

Six weeks after his inauguration as Vice-President, Andrew Johnson succeeded to the Presidency through the tragic death of Abraham Lincoln. Of all the Presi-

dents, Andrew Johnson has been perhaps the most maligned and misrepresented, but gradually he is being vindicated and placed in his proper rank as a man of ability and high qualities.

He was born in the South, at Raleigh, North Carolina, on December 29, 1808, and began his career as apprentice to a tailor. Of no education until his wife began to teach him, he rose from a legislator to Governor of Tennessee, and served in both branches of Congress. He was opposed to secession, and in 1862 Lincoln appointed him Military Governor of Tennessee. Johnson was a Democrat and received the vice-presidential nomination in 1864 as a loyalist of Tennessee. Becoming President, he was, like Tyler, nominal head of a party of which he was not actually a member.

Confronted with the difficult problems of reconstruction, he adopted Lincoln's policy of leniency, but Congress fought him at every turn. Finally an attempt was made to remove him from the Presidency. His impeachment before the Senate resulted in his acquittal by the narrow margin of one vote which would have given the two-thirds majority necessary for his conviction.

His term of office ended, he returned to Tennessee, where six years later he was elected to the United States Senate. A few months after his election, he died, on July 31, 1875.

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**ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT**  
**Eighteenth President**  
**March 4, 1869-March 4, 1877**

"Let us have peace," wrote General Grant in his letter of acceptance when he was unanimously nominated to the Presidency by the Republican party in 1868. This message was characteristic of the man of few words but of one purpose, whose military successes had preserved the Union.

Through a mistake in registration when he entered West Point, Hiram Ulysses Grant became Ulysses Simpson Grant, and so he



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remained the rest of his life, so that his new initials later stood for "Unconditional Surrender." Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27, 1822. Graduating from West Point, he served with distinction in the Mexican War.

He responded to the call to arms in 1861, and was made a Colonel and soon a Brigadier General. His victory at Fort Donelson was the first important success of the Northern troops. President Lincoln recognized Grant's ability at an early date. In 1864, after his victories at Vicksburg and Chattanooga, he was placed in command of the Northern forces. At Appomattox Court House, Grant's generous terms of surrender and his courtesy towards General Lee proved him a gentleman as well as a soldier.

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President Grant was not a politician, but he dealt wisely with the problems of the nation and above all, stood for reconciliation with the South. He was re-elected in 1872. At the close of his administration he made a trip around the world, and in 1880 was considered as a candidate for President, but the third-term prejudice prevented this.

The last chapter of his life is a heroic one. He suffered a severe business failure, and in order to provide for his family he set about writing his memoirs. He was dying of cancer of the throat, but continued his writing under the most intense suffering. His goal was reached and he completed his manuscript four days before his death, which occurred on July 23, 1885, near Saratoga, New York. In Riverside Park, New York City, overlooking the Hudson, stands the tomb of General Grant.

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### RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

Nineteenth President

March 4, 1877-March 4, 1881

Rutherford Birchard Hayes was another of our Presidents who served with distinction in the Civil War. He came to the White House from Ohio, where he



was born on October 4, 1822, at Delaware, Ohio. Commencing his career as a lawyer, he served several terms in the House of Representatives, and as Governor of Ohio.

The Hayes administration was ushered in by a bitterly contested dispute over the election. With 184 electoral votes for Tilden, the Democratic candidate, and 185 for Hayes, only if the latter won the four contested States—South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, and Oregon, an electoral commission was created to decide the election. By a strictly partisan vote, each disputed case was decided in favor of Hayes, who was declared elected by the margin of one electoral vote on the morning of March 2, two days before inauguration.

One of the first acts of President Hayes was to withdraw federal troops from the South, thus marking the end of the Reconstruction period. He also made an earnest effort towards civil service reform.

He did not seek re-election and devoted the remainder of his life in philanthropic efforts towards educational and social betterment. He died at his home in Fremont, Ohio, on January 17, 1893.

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### JAMES A. GARFIELD

Twentieth President

March 4, 1881-September 19, 1881

James Abram Garfield had a brilliant and remarkable career before he became President, and he scarcely had time to show his ability as Chief Executive before his life ended so tragically. He was born in a log cabin at Orange, Ohio, on November 19, 1831.

He worked his way through college, graduating from Williams College in 1856, and at the age of 26, he became President of Hiram College. At the same time he was studying law. The Civil War brought him into prominence as a soldier, and he rose to the rank of Major



General. In 1863 he resigned his commission to become a member of Congress, where he was active on committees of military affairs and finance. He remained in the House for seventeen years, until his election to the Senate.

Quite unexpectedly he received the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1880, when there was a deadlock in the party. Four months after his inauguration, when he was starting for Williams College to attend his twenty-fifth reunion, he was struck down by an assassin's bullet. For ten weeks he lingered between life and death, and died on September 19, 1881, the fourth President to die in office.



### CHESTER A. ARTHUR

Twenty-first President

September 20, 1881-March 4, 1885

Of our thirty Presidents, six have been Vice-Presidents who succeeded to the office through the death of the President. The tragic death of President Garfield brought Chester Alan Arthur to the White House. Vermont was his native State. He was born October 5, 1830, at Fairfield, Vermont.

Besides being a lawyer of distinction, his public services consisted of Inspector General and Quartermaster General in New York during the Civil War, and Collector of the Port of New York, from which he was removed by President Hayes.

Assuming the Presidency amid the misgivings of the country at large, President Arthur proved that he was equal to his great responsibility. Heretofore he had opposed civil service reform, but now he supported the movement and signed the Civil Service Reform Act of 1883.

Mrs. Arthur died the year before her husband came to the White House. President Arthur was a man of distinguished appearance

and courtly manners. He was an unsuccessful candidate for presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in 1884, and retired to New York, where he lived less than two years, for his death occurred on November 18, 1886.

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### GROVER CLEVELAND

Twenty-second President

March 4, 1885-March 4, 1889

Twenty-fourth President

March 4, 1893-March 4, 1897



Grover Cleveland was the only President to serve two terms not in succession, so that he is known as the twenty-second and the twenty-fourth President. His first name was Stephen, but like many other famous men and several of our Presidents, he discarded it. He was born at Caldwell, New Jersey, March 18, 1837. The greater part of his early life was spent in New York State. His public career started as assistant district attorney and later as sheriff of Erie County, New York, and progressed to mayor of Buffalo and Governor of the State. While still Governor, he was elected to the Presidency.

In 1886 President Cleveland married Miss Frances Folsom at the White House. Their second daughter was the first child of a President to be born there. Cleveland is known as "the veto President"; he was a man of great independence and courage and fearless devotion to duty. Dissatisfaction with his tariff policy made him unpopular with his party, and he was defeated for re-election in 1888 by Benjamin Harrison.

For the next four years, Cleveland practiced law in New York. In 1892 he defeated President Harrison and the following March returned to the White House. His second administration was a stormy one, with Cleveland always energetic and firm. Following the depression caused by the panic of 1893, Cleveland fought for the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act and the adoption of the

gold standard. When Grover Cleveland left the Presidency he was not popular within his party, but time proved that many of his measures were sound and statesmanlike, and before his death he was recognized as one of the greatest Presidents.

From 1897 until his death, June 24, 1908, he lived in Princeton, New Jersey, and was a lecturer and trustee of Princeton University where stands today a beautiful memorial tower erected in his honor.

### BENJAMIN HARRISON

Twenty-third President

March 4, 1889-March 4, 1893

A man of distinguished ancestry, Benjamin Harrison was a grandson of William Henry Harrison, the ninth President, and a great grandson of Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, for whom he was named. As Chief Executive, Grover Cleveland was Harrison's predecessor as well as his successor.

He was born at North Bend, Ohio, on August 20, 1833. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was practicing law in Indianapolis. Immediately he set about raising a regiment, and served with distinction throughout the war, retiring with the rank of Brigadier General. Returning to the law, he became active in public affairs, was defeated for Governor, and in 1880 was elected to the Senate.

In 1888 Benjamin Harrison was elected to succeed President Cleveland. The day of his inauguration was celebrated as the centenary of the establishment of the Federal Government. Six States were admitted to the Union during this administration and Oklahoma Territory was organized.

Harrison was renominated in 1892, but was defeated by Grover Cleveland. He returned to Indianapolis and resumed his practice of law. For a time he lectured at Leland Stanford University. He rep-

resented the United States at the Hague Conference in 1899. His death occurred in Indianapolis on March 13, 1901.

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### WILLIAM McKINLEY

Twenty-fifth President

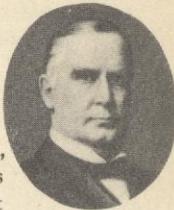
March 4, 1897-September 14, 1901

William McKinley was our third martyred President, assassinated in the first year of his second term. He was also another of our war Presidents. He was born at Niles, Ohio, January 29, 1843. As a youth of eighteen, he enlisted in the Civil War where he served with distinction and rose to the rank of major.

He became a prominent lawyer in Canton, Ohio, and in 1876 was elected to Congress where, with an interruption of two years, he served until 1890. His work on the tariff, resulting in the McKinley Tariff Law of 1890, eventually brought him the Presidency. The step between was the governorship of Ohio for two terms. His entire campaign for presidential election was carried on at home through his famous front porch speeches, where delegations from all over the country came to Canton to hear him.

The United States had long been confronted with the problem of Spanish oppression in Cuba. Things were brought to a head by the destruction of the U. S. battleship MAINE, and war was declared April 21, 1898. The end of the war brought problems of insular government, for by the peace treaty Spain relinquished all sovereignty over Cuba and ceded to the United States, in return for twenty million dollars, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and the Island of Guam.

President McKinley was re-elected in 1900, with Roosevelt as Vice-President. At the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, the President was shot by an anarchist and died eight days later, on



September 14, 1901. He was buried at Canton, where a beautiful mausoleum was erected. President McKinley was one of our most widely loved Presidents. He was a man of high purpose and integrity, and his unceasing devotion to his invalid wife endeared him to the American people.

## THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Twenty-sixth President

September 14, 1901-March 4, 1909

"The strenuous life"—a familiar slogan of Theodore Roosevelt—well describes his own life of boundless activity. He was a dynamo of energy. As author, naturalist, soldier, executive, and statesman, his life was full of action and accomplishment.

He was born on October 27, 1858, in New York City. Delicate and sickly as a boy, he developed by sheer will power and determination a vigorous constitution. His political career started in the New York Legislature at the age of 23. It had various stages from Civil Service Commissioner, Police Commissioner of New York, to Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and ended for an interval during the Spanish American War, when Colonel Roosevelt led his Rough Riders to victory. The next step was the governorship of New York, and in 1900 he was elected Vice-President with the McKinley administration.

When Roosevelt took over the reins of government at the death of President McKinley, he was 42, the youngest man in our history to become President. He was elected for another term in 1904. His outstanding act as Chief Executive was to take over the building of the Panama Canal. He attacked corruption in politics, vigorously fought trusts and monopolies, and advocated "a square deal" for everyone.

Leaving the Presidency, Roosevelt continued active in public affairs, a vigorous and forceful personality. He lectured and wrote

continuously. Twice he went on hunting expeditions, in Africa and Central Brazil. In 1912 he ran for President on the Progressive ticket, but was defeated. Bitterly disappointed that he could not be more active in the World War, he gave of his utmost to winning the war at home, by writing and speaking. His four sons were in the service, one of whom was killed.

On January 6, 1919, Theodore Roosevelt died at his home at Sagamore Hill, on Long Island. Day after day, year after year, the constant pilgrimage to his grave at Oyster Bay shows the place Theodore Roosevelt holds in the hearts of his countrymen.

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## WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

Twenty-seventh President

March 4, 1909-March 4, 1913

William Howard Taft was the only man in our history to hold successively the two highest offices in the nation, to become both President and Chief Justice of the United States. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 15, 1857. His father had a distinguished public career, and the son early started upon the steady series of advances which led him to the White House.

When only 29, William Howard Taft became judge of the superior court of Ohio; at 33, he was solicitor-general of the United States, and at 35, a Federal circuit judge. One of his greatest accomplishments was the establishment of civil government in the Philippines. He went there by appointment of President McKinley and became the first civil governor of the Philippines. Returning to Washington in 1904, he acted as Secretary of War under Roosevelt.

Strongly supported by President Roosevelt, Secretary Taft was nominated for the Presidency in 1908 and was elected. He was renominated in 1912, but there was a split in the Republican party and he was defeated.

He was Professor of Law at Yale University until 1921, when he was appointed Chief Justice of the United States, thereby realizing what he said had always been his highest ambition. Chief Justice Taft was loved and respected by the nation. He was beloved for his genial personality, his high-mindedness, and sense of fairness; he was venerated for the distinguished service he had rendered his country. He died on March 8, 1930, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



### WOODROW WILSON

Twenty-eighth President

March 4, 1913-March 4, 1921

Virginia has been the birthplace of eight of our Presidents, the last of whom was Thomas Woodrow Wilson, born in Staunton, Virginia, on December 28, 1856. He graduated from Princeton in 1879, and studied law at the University of Virginia. He taught at Bryn Mawr College and at Wesleyan University before going to Princeton in 1890 as professor of jurisprudence and political economy. In 1902 he became President of Princeton University.

He retired in 1910 to become Governor of New Jersey. In 1912 the Democratic Convention at Baltimore nominated him for the Presidency and he was elected. He revived George Washington's custom of speaking in person to Congress instead of sending messages. The greatest measure of Wilson's first year was the enactment of the Federal Reserve Law, by which the whole financial structure of the nation was reorganized.

The World War began in 1914, and President Wilson urged American neutrality. He was re-elected in 1916 in so close a contest that California was the deciding State. Before he was inaugurated the second time, diplomatic relations with Germany were broken, and on April 6, 1917, the United States entered the war.

With high idealism, President Wilson maintained that we were fighting not merely in self-defense, but in defense of free government, civilization, and humanity. In his famous War Message to Congress, he said: "The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty." He set about mobilizing not only an army but the industrial forces of the country.

Shortly after the signing of the armistice, President Wilson went to France to take part in the Peace Conference. This was the first time a President of the United States had ever left the country while in office. He suggested the "Fourteen Points" as a basis of peace, and took an active part in the creation of the League of Nations.

Woodrow Wilson never fully recovered from the illness that seized him in the autumn of 1919, as a result of his arduous efforts in behalf of the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations. He died at Washington, February 3, 1924. His health and life were willingly sacrificed in the cause of world peace. He will live in history not only as a great American President, but as a world figure, whose ideals upheld and strengthened all nations at a critical time.

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### WARREN G. HARDING

Twenty-ninth President

March 4, 1921-August 2, 1923



Next to Virginia stands Ohio in the number of sons given to the Presidency. Warren Gamaliel Harding was the seventh of our Presidents to be born in Ohio. He was born at Corsica, Ohio, on November 2, 1865, and was a newspaper publisher at Marion for a great many years.

He had been a member of the Ohio Senate and Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio before his election to the United States Senate in 1914. In 1920 he was elected President on the Republican ticket. President

Harding came into office at a trying time; it was a period of reconstruction and restlessness following the World War. It was through his initiative that the Conference on Limitation of Armament was held at Washington in 1921. To this conference came representatives from all over the world.

In the summer of 1923, the President took an extended trip to Alaska and throughout the West. On his way back, he was taken ill at San Francisco and died there on the second of August. His funeral was held at Washington, and he was buried at Marion, Ohio.

### CALVIN COOLIDGE

Thirty-first President

August 3, 1923-March 4, 1929



Calvin Coolidge became our thirty-first President just before dawn on August 3, 1923, three hours after the news of President Harding's death reached him at his father's farm in Vermont, where he was visiting. Here at Plymouth, Vermont, where he was born on July 4, 1872, Calvin Coolidge took the oath of office, administered by his father, a justice of the peace. This is the only time in the history of the country that a father has installed his son as Chief Executive.

Mr. Coolidge's boyhood and youth were spent on his father's farm. Much of his straightforwardness, his thrift, and his simplicity are traced to his early training and environment. Following his graduation from Amherst College, he studied law and began his practice in Northampton, Massachusetts. Gradually he made his way in State and local politics; first, as a member of the Legislature, then, as Mayor of Northampton. In 1912 he was elected to the State Senate, later becoming the President. His address on that occasion, familiarly called "Have Faith in Massachusetts," is an example of Coolidge's clear-cut thinking, and his power of concise and direct statement.

After serving three years as Lieutenant-Governor, Coolidge became Governor of Massachusetts, and was re-elected. In 1921 he

became Vice-President with the Harding administration, and was the first Vice-President to regularly attend cabinet meetings. At the death of President Harding, the reins of government were taken over by Calvin Coolidge, and the silent, earnest, clear-thinking man at once won the confidence of his countrymen. He faced a difficult period of readjustment. In 1924 he was elected President in his own right. Of the six Vice-Presidents who have succeeded to the Presidency during our history, only two—Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge—were elected to the Presidency and served another four years after having completed their predecessor's term.

Perhaps the most outstanding achievement of the Coolidge administration was the negotiation of the Kellogg Peace Pact, signed in Paris by fifteen nations, condemning and renouncing war. A substantial reduction of the war debt and the revision of the tax laws were also important accomplishments. Mr. Coolidge retired from the Presidency in the possession of the deep respect and regard of the American people.

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### HERBERT HOOVER

Thirty-first President

March 4, 1929-



Until the breaking out of the World War in 1914, the fame of Herbert Clark Hoover rested largely upon his conspicuous service as a mining engineer in various parts of the world. He had reached high rank in his profession and made a notable record for accomplishment, when he was called upon to use his organizing genius in the cause of humanity in the war-stricken area where his activities in directing the Commission for Relief in Belgium meant food, clothing, and life itself to millions of destitute people in the devastated regions of Belgium and Northern France. These activities made his name world-known and world-famous.

When the United States entered the war, Mr. Hoover was appointed Food Administrator by President Wilson to mobilize and

distribute our food resources. While still carrying on the Belgian work, he waged a most effective campaign here for economy and co-ordination, which was accomplished not by order but by direct appeal to the American people. His measures of economy and his slogans entered every American home; "to Hooverize" appeared as a new verb in our vocabulary.

With the end of the war came the serious food crisis in Europe, and Herbert Hoover once more stepped to the helm as general director of relief in Europe and supervised the distribution of 15,000,000 tons of food to the destitute and starving millions abroad. Such,—in a few words, was the magnificent war service of the man who is today our President.

Born on August 10, 1874, in West Branch, Iowa, part of his childhood was spent in Oregon. He was among the first students of Leland Stanford University, from which he graduated in 1895, and where he met Miss Lou Henry who later became his wife. Mr. Hoover's engineering career took him to many countries. He and Mrs. Hoover were in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Here he had his first experience in organizing food and water supplies.

In 1921 he became Secretary of Commerce under the Harding administration, continuing there under President Coolidge. He developed this department to an extraordinary degree. When the disastrous Mississippi floods occurred in 1927, Mr. Hoover once more marshalled forces of relief and brought order out of chaos.

Herbert Hoover was inaugurated President of the United States on March 4, 1929. The inaugural ceremony was unique; never before had the oath of office been administered by a former President. Here, partaking in the ceremony on the steps of the Capitol, were three men closely associated with the Presidency: Herbert Hoover, the incoming President; Calvin Coolidge, the retiring President; and the late William Howard Taft, a former President, who as Chief Justice of the United States administered the oath of office.

## The PRESIDENTS of the UNITED STATES

NAME	BORN	INAUGURATED	DIED
1 George Washington	Feb. 22, 1732	1789	Dec. 14, 1799
2 John Adams	Oct. 30, 1735	1797	July 4, 1826
3 Thomas Jefferson	April 13, 1743	1801	July 4, 1826
4 James Madison	March 16, 1751	1809	June 28, 1836
5 James Monroe	April 28, 1758	1817	July 4, 1831
6 John Quincy Adams	July 11, 1767	1825	Feb. 23, 1848
7 Andrew Jackson	March 15, 1767	1829	June 8, 1845
8 Martin Van Buren	Dec. 5, 1782	1837	July 24, 1862
9 William Henry Harrison	Feb. 9, 1773	1841	April 4, 1841
10 John Tyler	March 29, 1790	1841	Jan. 18, 1862
11 James Knox Polk	Nov. 2, 1795	1845	June 15, 1849
12 Zachary Taylor	Sept. 24, 1784	1849	July 9, 1850
13 Millard Fillmore	Jan. 7, 1800	1850	March 8, 1874
14 Franklin Pierce	Nov. 23, 1804	1853	Oct. 8, 1869
15 James Buchanan	April 23, 1791	1857	June 1, 1868
16 Abraham Lincoln	Feb. 12, 1809	1861	April 15, 1865
17 Andrew Johnson	Dec. 29, 1808	1865	July 31, 1875
18 Ulysses Simpson Grant	April 27, 1822	1869	July 23, 1875
19 Rutherford Birchard Hayes	Oct. 4, 1822	1877	July 23, 1885
20 James Abram Garfield	Nov. 19, 1831	1881	Sept. 17, 1883
21 Chester Alan Arthur	Oct. 5, 1830	1881	Sept. 19, 1881
22 Grover Cleveland	March 18, 1837	1885	Nov. 18, 1886
23 Benjamin Harrison	August 20, 1833	1889	June 24, 1908
*24 Grover Cleveland	March 18, 1837	1893	March 13, 1901
25 William McKinley	Jan. 29, 1843	1897	June 24, 1908
26 Theodore Roosevelt	Oct. 27, 1858	1901	Sept. 14, 1901
27 William Howard Taft	Sept. 15, 1857	1909	Jan. 6, 1919
28 Woodrow Wilson	Dec. 28, 1856	1913	March 8, 1930
29 Warren Gamaliel Harding	Nov. 2, 1856	1921	Feb. 3, 1924
30 Calvin Coolidge	July 4, 1872	1923	Aug. 2, 1923
31 Herbert Clark Hoover	Aug. 10, 1874	1929	

\*Grover Cleveland was the 22nd President of the United States and also the 24th President of the United States.

*The Capitol -*



*The White House -*



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UNITED STATES*